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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dohring, et al. Docket No.: 616.95USWO
Serial No.: unknown Filed: concurrent herewith
Int'l Appln No.: PCTEP0103661 Int'l Filing Date: March 30, 2001
Title: PAPER FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF PANELS AND METHOD OF
MAKING THE PAPER

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By: 
Chris Stordahl

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment:

IN THE ABSTRACT

Insert the attached Abstract page into the application as the last page thereof.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

A courtesy copy of the present specification is enclosed herewith. However, the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) copy should be relied upon if it is already in the U.S. Patent Office.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the acrylate-containing dispersion or mixture contains water, in which acrylate particles are dispersed, and preferably resin, in particular an amino resin.

4. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that colour pigments such as aluminium silicate, calcium carbonate, TiO_2 , Al_2O_3 or magnesium silicate are added to the acrylate-containing mixture or dispersion.

5. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the paper is conducted through rollers which are pressed together, the acrylate-containing dispersion or mixture being continuously applied to at least one roller and preferably distributed on the roller with a doctor blade.

6. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the paper is de-aerated before the acrylate-containing dispersion or mixture is pressed into it and for this purpose in particular is steeped on one side in the acrylate-containing dispersion or mixture.

7. (AMENDED) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the paper weight amounts to at least 15 grams per square metre and/or does not exceed an upper limit of 60 g/m^2 , preferably of 40 g/m^2 .

12. (AMENDED) Paper according to the preceding article claim, produced in accordance with claim 1.

13. (AMENDED) Paper according to claim 11, characterised by a paper weight of 15 to 60 g/m², preferably up to 40 g/m².

14. (AMENDED) Paper according to claim 11, characterised by colour pigments which are present in the interior of the paper.

15. (AMENDED) Paper according to claim 11, characterised in that it displays no delamination on the conclusion of the performance of a standardised steam test, in which the paper is exposed to steam for two hours.

16. (AMENDED) Tile, in which the paper according to claim 11, is used.

18. (AMENDED) Tile according to claim 11, characterised in that the tile is a flooring panel.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
Post Office Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: November 30, 2001

By 
John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112

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Claims

1. Method of manufacturing a paper, characterised in that the paper is
5 impregnated with an acrylate-containing dispersion or mixture.

2. Method according to Claim 1, characterised in that the acrylate-
containing dispersion or mixture is pressed into the paper.

10 3. Method according to "one of the foregoing claims", characterised in that
the acrylate-containing dispersion or mixture contains water, in which
acrylate particles are dispersed, and preferably resin, in particular an
amino resin.

15 4. Method according to "one of the foregoing claims", characterised in that
colour pigments such as aluminium silicate, calcium carbonate, TiO₂,
Al₂O₃ or magnesium silicate are added to the acrylate-containing mixture
or dispersion.

20 5. Method according to "one of the foregoing claims", characterised in that
the paper is conducted through rollers which are pressed together, the
acrylate-containing dispersion or mixture being continuously applied to at
least one roller and preferably distributed on the roller with a doctor
blade.

25 6. Method according to "one of the foregoing claims", characterised in that
the paper is de-aerated before the acrylate-containing dispersion or
mixture is pressed into it and for this purpose in particular is steeped on
one side in the acrylate-containing dispersion or mixture.

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- CLAIM 1 -

7. Method according to "one of the foregoing claims", characterised in that the paper weight amounts to at least 15 grams per square metre and/or does not exceed an upper limit of 60 g/m², preferably of 40 g/m².

5 8. Method of manufacturing a tile, in which paper is impregnated in accordance with one of the foregoing claims and a laminate system which comprises the paper and a carrier plate is pressed with the application of heat.

10 9. Method of manufacturing a tile according to the preceding claim, in which the laminate system includes a decorated or patterned paper onto which a mixture of amino resin and abrasion-resistant particles is applied, preferably by spraying, before the pressing step.

15 10. Method of manufacturing a tile according to the preceding claim, in which fibres and/or spheres made of polyester, polyamide or glass are applied to the abrasion-resistant particles before the pressing step.

20 11. Paper characterised by acrylate which is present at least predominantly in the interior of the paper.

12. Paper according to the preceding article claim, produced in accordance with "one of the foregoing method claims".

25 13. Paper according to "one of the preceding article claims", characterised by a paper weight of 15 to 60 g/m², preferably up to 40 g/m².

14. Paper according to "one of the preceding article claims", characterised by colour pigments which are present in the interior of the paper.

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- CLAIM 11 -

15. Paper according to "one of the preceding article claims," characterised in that it displays no delamination on the conclusion of the performance of a standardised steam test, in which the paper is exposed to steam for two hours.

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16. Tile, in which the paper according to "one of the preceding article claims" is used.

10 17. Tile according to the preceding claim, in which a surface of the tile is provided with abrasion-resistant particles such as corundum or silicon carbide particles and preferably with fibres and/or spheres made of polyester, polyamide or glass.

15 18. Tile according to "one of the two preceding claims," characterised in that the tile is a flooring panel.